



## **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING**

**Olympia** – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Christine Yorozu, found 89 elected and 13 appointed officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Tuesday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15<sup>th</sup> reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Yorozu said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public’s interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two warning letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 6, 2002 and letter with an opportunity to pay a \$50 fine and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on May 21, 2002.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

Government officials from the Pierce County area who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing are:

<b>Matthew Jolibois</b> , City Council Member, City of Fircrest	\$150 Penalty
<b>Tracy Barge</b> , City Council Member, City of Orting	\$150 Penalty
<b>Ronald Scholz</b> , City Council Member, City of Sumner	\$100 Penalty
<b>Mark Ashcraft</b> , School Director, Eatonville SD	\$150 Penalty
<b>Jerry Flowers</b> , Fire Commissioner, Pierce Fire Protection District	\$300 Penalty
<b>Antoni Froehling</b> , School Director, Sumner SD	\$150 Penalty
<b>Gregory Zirkle</b> , School Director, Orting SD	\$150 Penalty
<b>Richard Thompson</b> , School Director, Eatonville SD	\$150 Penalty
<b>Larry Thompson</b> , School Director, Dieringer SD	\$100 Penalty

On Tuesday, Yorozu also levied civil penalties to three lobbyist employers for failure to file annual employer reports due February 28, 2002. Laidlaw Transit, SBC Telecom Inc., and the Washington State Association of Independent Outpatient Programs were each fined \$500.

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